

High Priority Projects and Areas of Concern

Fish habitat and stream restoration projects are high priority for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program for the watersheds of Northwest Florida. These projects address reducing non-point source pollution, improving water quality, and decreasing erosion and resulting sedimentation. Many stream projects will include improving habitats through structural means, floodplain connectivity, improving fish passage, and restoring native riparian and stream vegetation. We are most interested in projects that reduce sedimentation in the spawning habitat of the Gulf sturgeon, or restore fish habitat for the Okaloosa darter, crystal darter, blackmouth shiner, or freshwater mussels.

For more



information please contact:



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Other Watershed Contacts

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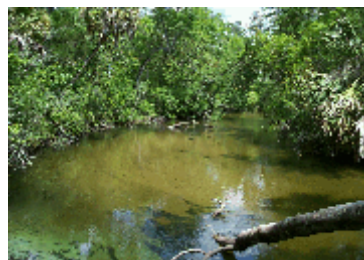
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Voluntary Habitat Restoration
Financial and Technical Assistance

Northwest Florida



<http://panamacity.fws.gov>
<http://partners.fws.gov>
<http://southeast.fws.gov/partners>



Gulf Sturgeon

How do I become a Partner?

Landowners can become involved by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). A biologist will contact you to discuss your needs, opportunities available, and assist you if possible. If your project meets certain criteria, the Service may share or pay certain costs.

Successful Florida Projects take many forms:

- j Restoration of Wetland Habitats
- j Exotic Species Removal
- j Restoration of Longleaf Pine Habitat
- j Stream Restoration and Protection

Projects focus primarily on restoration of wetlands, streams, uplands, riparian areas and floodplains which benefit threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, anadromous fish and marine mammals.

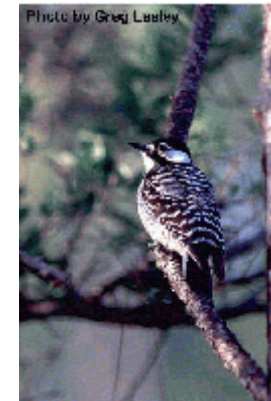


Okaloosa Darter

Voluntary Habitat Restoration



**The Program is Responsive,
Streamlined and Flexible**



Red-Cockaded Woodpecker

Assistance offered by the Service to private landowners ranges from informal advice on the design and location of potential restoration projects -- to design and funding of these projects. A voluntary cooperative agreement is usually developed with the landowner.

Over two-thirds of our nation's land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program can restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat, and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life of the people living on it.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife . . .

- h Is a pro-active, voluntary program that works with private landowners to restore fish and wildlife habitats on their land,
- h Contributes to the land's health and rural quality of life,
- h Emphasizes landowner choice and control,
- h Offers advice and funding for habitat projects on private lands, and
- h Emphasizes re-establishment of native vegetation and ecological communities.

Who are the Partners?

Anyone can be a partner: farmers, ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, government agencies, educational institutions, and anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.